

Application No. 10/633,893
Amendment dated August 29, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 29, 2005

REMARKS

Status Of Application

Claims 1-31 are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,972,460 to Tachiwana et al. ("Tachiwana"), U.S. Patent No. 6,440,531 to Kurachi et al. ("Kurachi"), and U.S. Patent No. 6,387,510 to Nakashima et al. ("Nakashima"), each taken alone, for reasons of record.

Claims 1-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) U.S. Patent No. 6,818,576 to Ikenishi et al. ("Ikenishi"), for reasons of record.

Drawings

To date, no Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review has been received. Applicants respectfully request receipt of this document when it becomes available. Please note that the original drawings filed in the patent application are "formal" drawings.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1 and 3 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

Prior Art Rejections

The rejection of claims 1-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and/or § 103(a) over Tachiwana, Kurachi, Nakashima, and Ikenishi is respectfully traversed based on the following.

Claims 1 and 3 have been amended to require “an amount of B_2O_3 sufficient to improve the fusibility of the glass substrate but not more than 8 % by weight.” Support for this amendment is found in the specification at paragraph [0017] and in the numerous examples provided in Tables 1-3. As amended, claims 1 and 3 now clearly require that the glass composition include B_2O_3 . Kurachi fails to teach the use of B_2O_3 . Nakashima teaches that B_2O_3 may be included in amounts up to 3% to improve meltability and stability (column 6, lines 8-10). However, all examples disclosed by Nakashima have a total content of $SiO_2 + Al_2O_3 + B_2O_3$ of less than 80.4%. In contrast, the present claims require the total content of these constituents to be between 80.4% and 90% by weight. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that both Kurachi and Nakashima are distinguished by amended claims 1 and 3.

Claims 1 and 3 have also been amended to provide an upper limit of 15% by weight of R_2O . Support for these amendments is found in Examples 31 and 32 of Table 3. Although Example 5 of Tachiwana shows 0.7% B_2O_3 , the Example has an R_2O content of 16.5 %, which is outside the range set forth in amended claims 1 and 3. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 3 distinguish Tachiwana.

Claims 1 and 3 have also been amended to provide an upper limit of 16% by weight of Al_2O_3 . Support for these amendments is found at paragraph [0016] of the specification. As pointed out at page 3 of the Office Action, Ikenishi teaches an Al_2O_3 content of 17.4% by weight, which is outside of the range claimed in claims 1 and 3. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 3 distinguish Ikenishi.

Each of claims 2 and 4-31 ultimately depend from either claim 1 or claim 3. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that claims 2 and 4-31 distinguish over the cited references for at least the same reasons as provided above in regards to their respective base claims.

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Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and/or § 103(a) over Tachiwana, Kurachi, Nakashima, and Ikenishi be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

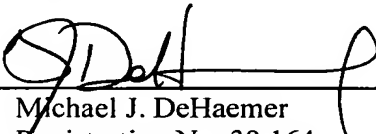
If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee,

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and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's
Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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August 29, 2005

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